

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04  
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00  
OMB-01 /099 W  
-----081639 041346Z /53

P R 031620Z AUG 77  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9964  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USMTN

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

STR FOR INFO

E O 11652: NA  
TAGS: PDIP, BEXP, FR, MTN, GATT  
SUBJ: CHANGE IN FRENCH REPRESENTATION TO THE MTN AND GATT

REF: PARIS 21923

1. FRENCH PERMREP TO THE MTN AND THE GATT, PIERRE MARIE COLMANT, CONFIRMED TO CULBERT AUGUST 2 THAT HIS APPOINTMENT TO WASHINGTON AS COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR IS NOW FIRM. HE EXPECTS TO TAKE UP HIS WASHINGTON POST BETWEEN THE PERIOD OCTOBER 15-30. UPON RETURN FROM VACATION AT THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER, HE WILL BE IN PARIS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BRIEFING OF PRIME MINISTER BARRE IN CONNECTION WITH THE LATTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND EXPECTS TO ACCOMPANY THE  
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PRIMIN ON THAT VISIT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 15.

2. COLMANT WILL BE REPLACED IN GENEVA BY M. FRANCOIS MUTON, CURRENTLY WITH THE FRENCH MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES IN BRUSSELS.  
WE WOULD APPRECIATE BIO INFO ON MUTON FROM PARIS AND/OR USEC AS WELL AS USEC COMMENTS ON MUTON'S GENERAL ATTITUDE

TOWARD TRADE POLICY ISSUES AND THE MTN IN PARTICULAR.

3. COLMANT IS WELL KNOWN TO U.S. TRADE POLICY OFFICIALS IN STR AND STATE DUE TO HIS LONG TENURE (NEARLY EIGHT YEARS) IN GENEVA. CHARMING AND PERSONABLE IN HIS PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH AMERICANS (AND WITH, OF COURSE, PERFECTLY FLUENT COMMAND OF ENGLISH), HE IS A FORMIDABLE PROPONENT AND DEFENDER OF FRENCH ECONOMIC INTERESTS WITH AN IMMENSE CAPACITY FOR MANIPULATING EVENTS BEHIND THE SCENES TO ACCOMPLISH FRENCH OBJECTIVES. IN CONTRAST TO MOST OTHER EC MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA WHO APPEAR TO PLAY RELATIVELY PASSIVE ROLES VIS-A-VIS THE EC COMMISSION'S SPOKESMAN IN THE MTN AND GATT, COLMANT IS BY FAR THE MOST VIGOROUS AND INFLUENTIAL MEMBER STATE REP IN HIS INFLUENCE ON COMMUNITY POSITIONS BOTH SUBSTANTIVELY AND TACTICALLY. OFFICERS OF THE EC COMMISSION DELEGATION, INCLUDING THE HEAD OF DELEGATION, ARE NOT EXACTLY IN TEARS OVER M. COLANT'S IMMINENT DEPARTURE. COLMANT'S PRIVATE VIEWS ON BROAD POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND US-FRENCH RELATIONS SEEM TO COINCIDE IN MOST RESPECTS WITH WHAT IS CONSIDERED A GAULLIST PHILOSOPHY. HE DOES NOT THINK VERY HIGHLY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND, IN PRIVATE, SELDOM MISSES AN OPPORTUNITY TO CAST DISPARAGING REMARKS ON THE CAPABILITY OF COMMISSION NEGOTIATIONS. A PERSISTENT PLEA BY COLMANT OVER THE YEARS HAS BEEN THAT THE U.S. ALWAYS MAKES A MISTAKE IN DEALING WITH BRUSSELS ("THOSE CLERKS") LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THAT WE SHOULD INSTEAD SEND OUR TOP PEOPLE TO PARIS (OR INVITE THEM TO WASHINGTON) TO WORK OUT A DEAL ON ANY PARTICULAR CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEM WHICH CAN THEN EASILY(SIC) BE RATIFIED IN BRUSSELS. HE HAS A DEEP-SEATED DISTRUST OF GERMANY AND THE GERMANS. HE HAS A CONDESCENDING ATTITUDE TOWARD THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE ADMIRES AMERICAN TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY AND ECONOMIC POWER BUT PROFESSES TO BE BEMUSED BY WHAT HE REGARDS AS A SURPRISING U.S. INABILITY TO GET THE WORLD TO FALL IN LINE AND DO WHATEVER WE WANT. HE IS NEARLY APOLECTIC ABOUT THE CURRENT CONCORDE LANDING RIGHTS PROBLEM.

4. BIO DATA AVAILABLE HERE SAYS COLMANT WAS BORN 17 DEC 1919, SERVED AS COMMERCIAL ATTACHE IN LONDON 1946-54, SERVED IN NYASSALAND AND RHODESIA 1954-57, DIRECTOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE 1957-58, COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES 1958-65, OUT OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE 1965-68 AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CERAC COMPANY, AND APPOINTED FRENC PERMANENT DELEGATE TO THE GATT IN 1968. HE BECAME A CHEVALIER OF THE LEGION D'HONNEUR IN 1976. COLMANT'S WIFE, FRANCOISE, IS A WITTY, VIVACIOUS WOMAN WITH A GOOD COMMAND OF

ENGLISH (ALTHOUGH RELUCTANT TO USE IT IN GENEVA). THEY  
HAVE FOUR (?) GROWN SONS.

5. COLMANT HAS BEEN INDEPENDENT OF THE FRENCH DELEGATION  
TO THE UN IN GENEVA, WITH OFFICES IN A SEPARATE BUILDING.  
WE UNDERSTAND HE WILL HAVE A LARGE DEGREE OF AUTONOMY IN  
HIS WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENT, REPORTING DIRECTLY TO HIS HOME  
BASE, DREE.  
CULBERT

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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